

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claims 11-17 (withdrawn).

18. (currently amended) A pouch comprising:

a compartment;

a multi-layer panel including a metal layer laminated between an exterior polymer layer and an interior polymer layer, wherein the interior polymer layer is coextensive with the compartment and the exterior polymer layer forms the external surface of the pouch; and

a frangible piercing point disposed on the external surface and including

~~at least one, but no more than one~~ a continuous channel through the exterior polymer layer, wherein the channel is formed by exposure to laser ~~energy and energy~~, the channel is the only continuous channel used to form the frangible piercing point, and a substantial portion of the channel's route is arcuate, said arcuate portion having a first end, a second end, and a gap between said ends that is substantially less than the arcuate portion's diameter,

~~at least one, but no more than one~~ a substantially enclosed area defined by the continuous channel and retaining the exterior polymer layer, wherein the area is the only substantially enclosed area defined by the continuous channel, and a hinge adjacent to the substantially enclosed area and retaining the exterior polymer layer, wherein the exterior polymer layer extends in a continuous layer from the substantially enclosed area, through the hinge, and to the rest of the external surface.

Claim 19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) The pouch of claim 18, wherein the continuous channel defines a teardrop-shaped substantially enclosed area.

21. (currently amended) The pouch of claim 18, wherein the continuous channel further comprises a first substantially straight line ~~segment, segment and~~ a second substantially straight line segment, ~~and an arcuate line segment,~~ wherein a first end of the first line segment ~~joins to a~~ joins to the first end of the arcuate line segment portion and a first end of the second line segment joins to the second end of the arcuate ~~line segment portion~~.

22. (previously presented) The pouch of claim 21, wherein the first and second line segments are substantially parallel to each other.

23. (withdrawn) A method of forming a pouch having a frangible piercing point disposed on an external surface of the pouch, the method comprising:

supplying a multi-layer panel including a metal layer laminated between a first polymer layer and a second polymer layer;

forming the frangible piercing point by applying laser energy to the first polymer layer to form at least one, but no more than one continuous channel through the first polymer layer, wherein a substantial portion of the channel's route is arcuate and the continuous channel defines at least one, but no more than one substantially enclosed area and an adjacent hinge, wherein the substantially enclosed area and hinge retain the first polymer layer, and wherein the first polymer layer extends in a continuous layer from the substantially enclosed area, through the hinge, and to the rest of the first polymer layer; and

forming the panel into the pouch such that the first polymer layer becomes the external surface of the pouch and the second polymer layer becomes the interior surface of the pouch.

24. (withdrawn) The pouch of claim 23, wherein the continuous channel runs from one side of the hinge to the other side of the hinge and forms a cord of at least 180 degrees.

25. (withdrawn) The pouch of claim 23, wherein the continuous channel defines a teardrop-shaped substantially enclosed area.

26. (withdrawn) The pouch of claim 23, wherein the continuous channel comprises a first substantially straight line segment, a second substantially straight line segment, and an arcuate line segment, wherein a first end of the first line segment joins to a first end of the arcuate line segment and a first end of the second line segment joins to the second end of the arcuate line segment.

27. (withdrawn) The pouch of claim 26, wherein the first and second line segments are substantially parallel to each other.